

REMARKS

Interview Summary

Applicants thank Examiner Gold for the personal interview conducted on April 26, 2007. As reflected by the Interview Summary (see copy of PTOL-413 form attached to this Supplemental Amendment), applicants' representatives, Roberto Devoto and Andrew Foy, and Examiner Gold discussed the deficiencies of U.S. Patent Numbers 6,212,548 (DeSimone) and 6,748,421 (Ozkan) in view of the currently pending claims. In addition, applicants' representatives and Examiner Gold discussed the filing of a Supplemental Amendment to fix minor typographical errors in applicants' Amendment in Reply to Action of August 11, 2006 and to include new claims that further amplify discussed distinctions over the prior art of record. Examiner Gold indicated that he would be willing to enter such a Supplemental Amendment.

Request for Entry

Applicants are filing a Supplemental Amendment in Reply to Action of August 11, 2006 to fix the minor typographical errors in applicants' Amendment in Reply to Action of August 11, 2006 and to include new claims that further amplify discussed distinctions over the prior art of record. Accordingly, applicants request entry of this Supplemental Amendment.

Claims 43, 51, 63, and 67 were previously cancelled, claims 36, 38, 44, 48, 50, 52, 56-58, 60, 61, 64-66, 68, 69, and 72 were previously amended, and claims 78-87 were previously added by applicants' Amendment in Reply to Action of August 11, 2006. By way of this Supplemental Amendment, claims 36, 56, 68, 79, and 83 have been amended, and claims 88 and 89 have been added. Therefore, upon entry of this Supplemental Amendment, claims 36-42, 44-50, 52-62, and 64-66, and 68-89 will be pending, with claims 36, 48, 56, 64, 68, 69, 82, and 85 being independent. No new matter has been introduced. Support for the amendments and new claims can be found in the application at, for example, page 15, line 5 to page 24, line 29.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. However, in the event that the Examiner finds that the claims still are not in condition for allowance, applicants invite the Examiner to call applicants' representatives Andrew Foy and/or Roberto Devoto at (202) 783-5070 to discuss the claims prior to issuance of a new Office Action.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue, or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this reply should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this reply, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Upon entry of this amendment, please apply the \$100 fee in payment for the Excess Claims fee to Deposit Account No. 06-1050. In addition, please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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